

§ 20.1202

National Driver Register Act of 1982 (23 U.S.C. 401, note).

§ 20.1202 Filing of pleadings.

(a) *Complaint.* If the Coast Guard has temporarily suspended a merchant mariner's license, certificate of registry, or document, it shall immediately file a complaint under § 20.307. The complaint must contain both a copy of a notice of temporary suspension and an affidavit stating the authority and reason for temporary suspension.

(b) *Answer.* In a case under this subpart—

(1) § 20.308 does not govern answers, and

(2) The respondent shall therefore enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference.

§ 20.1203 Commencement of expedited hearings.

Upon receipt of a complaint with a copy of the notice of temporary suspension and the affidavit supporting the complaint, the Chief ALJ will immediately assign an ALJ and designate the case for expedited hearing.

§ 20.1205 Motion for return of temporarily suspended license, certificate of registry, or document.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that his or her license, certificate of registry, or document be returned on the grounds that the agency lacked probable cause for temporary suspension. The motion must be in writing and explain why the agency lacked probable cause.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the return of the suspended license, certificate, or document and for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1206 Discontinuance of expedited hearings.

(a) *Procedure.* At any time during the expedited hearing, the respondent may move that the hearing discontinue and that the matter continue under standard procedure. A motion to discontinue must be in writing and explain why the

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case is inappropriate for expedited hearing.

(b) *Ruling.* If the ALJ grants the motion to discontinue, the ALJ may issue such orders as are necessary for the matter to continue in an orderly way under standard procedure.

§ 20.1207 Pre-hearing conferences.

(a) *When held.* As early as practicable, the ALJ shall order and conduct a pre-hearing conference. He or she may order the holding of the conference in person, or by telephonic or electronic means.

(b) *Answer.* The respondent shall enter his or her answer at the pre-hearing conference. If the answer is an admission, the ALJ shall either issue an appropriate order or schedule a hearing on the order.

(c) *Content.* (1) At the pre-hearing conference, the parties shall:

(i) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute and prepare an agreed statement of issues, facts, and defenses.

(ii) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the matter.

(iii) Fix a time and place for the hearing 30 days or less after the temporary suspension.

(iv) Discuss witnesses and exhibits.

(2) The ALJ shall issue an order directing the exchange of witness lists and documents.

(d) *Order.* Before the close of the pre-hearing conference, the ALJ shall issue an order setting forth any agreements reached by the parties. The order must specify the issues for the parties to address at the hearing.

(e) *Procedures not to cause delay.* Neither any filing of pleadings or motions, nor any conduct of discovery, may interfere with—

(1) The holding of the hearing 30 days or less after the temporary suspension or

(2) The closing of the record early enough for the issuance of an initial decision 45 days or less after the temporary suspension.

(f) *Times.* The ALJ may shorten the time for any act required or permitted under this subpart to enable him or her to issue an initial decision 45 days or less after the temporary suspension.